UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

[redacted]

Atlanta, Georgia
April 24, 1968

[redacted]

ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
RACIAL MATTER

On April 22, 1968, a confidential source advised he had recently learned that subsequent to the death of Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., Bernard Lafayette, Program Administrator, Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), and Hosea Williams, Director of Voter Registration and Political Education, SCLC, have on more than one occasion commented to SCLC Executive Staff members that it can be anticipated other members (not identified) of SCLC's Executive Staff might die as a result of violence in the continuing civil rights struggle. They have pointed out that the continuing civil rights struggle will require the utilization of economic pressures (not specified) which will result in conflicts of interests in the Nation's economy.

With reference to the death of Reverend King, some members of the SCLC Executive Staff feel the shooting of Reverend King was the work of a mentally unbalanced person. While others appear to have an open mind regarding this matter, a minority of the staff feel it is quite plausible that the shooting of Reverend King was directly or indirectly instigated by President Lyndon B. Johnson and/or members of his administration. In support of this line of thinking these members maintain that Reverend King's status as a powerful civil rights leader, his staunch opposition to the Viet Nam war, and potential to embarrass the current administration through SCLC's pending Poor People's Campaign, have undoubtedly irked the President and his administration for an appreciable time.

Source could furnish no further details regarding the above matter, but expressed the opinion that such thinking might be the result of an emotional reaction to a catastrophe, coupled with a distrust of "the establishment".

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

[redacted]

FD-323 (Rev. 11-23-61)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to File No.

Atlanta, Georgia
April 24, 1968

Title [redacted]

ASSASSINATION OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Character INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Reference RACIAL MATTER

Atlanta Memorandum dated and captioned as above.

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable information in the past.

This document is neither to be reproduced [illegible] outside your agency.